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AC 403(41) BARNSTAPLE

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

FOR 1923.

BARNSTAPLE :

T. J. CLARKE, PRINTER, 39, SOUTHPORT STREET.

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T. J. CLARKE, PRINTER, 38, BOUTPORT STREET.



BEAR STREET,

BARNSTAPLE,

April, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barnstaple Town Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1923. This is once more what the Ministry of Health calls an Ordinary Report. The School Medical Officer's Report is also included.

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT C. JONAS.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 2,396.

Population (1923), 14,550.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,646.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 4,010.

Rateable value, £67,041.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £220.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births	{		Total	M.	F.
		Legitimate	244	130	114
		Illegitimate	18	12	6

Birth Rate, 18 0 per 1000 living.

Deaths 197.

Death Rate, 13 5 per 1000 living

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—

From sepsis 1

Other causes 1

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births—

Legitimate, 13. Illegitimate, 2. Total, 15.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ „ Whooping Cough 2

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2) 0

Infant mortality rate total 57'3

Legitimate children 53'5

Illegitimate „ 11'1

Only three deaths are recorded as from Influenza during the past year. There was no extensive epidemic of this disease.

Seven persons died from Pneumonia ; twenty four cases were notified so that it seems that practitioners have been more alive to the fact that it is notifiable.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases in Hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	18	13	1
Scarlet Fever ...	20	3	0
Enteric Group ...	3	2	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	24	0	7
Other disease generally notifiable ...	8	0	
Other disease locally notifiable	0	0	

The following table gives the ages of all the cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever :—

Disease	Under								
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35
Diphtheria	0	0	1	3	1	7	3	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	1	2	2	12	3			

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulm.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
15	4	1	1	0	1	3	0	0
20	5	3	2	2	3	2	1	0
25	7	4	1	0	1	1	0	0
35	4	6	0	1	2	5	0	0
45	7	5	0	0	2	2	1	1
55	1	4	0	0	1	2	0	0
65 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals . .	31	25	8	4	10	15	3	3

There has not been much non-notification of Tuberculosis this year. When it has happened, it has transpired that the doctor was only just called in to see the case before a fatal termination.

There is no evidence of any special occupation showing an excessive mortality from tubercle.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS IN THE DISTRICT.

The death rate is slightly higher this year than it was last, 13·5 per 1000 against 12·2 in 1922. In spite of that fact the year under review has not been one of excessive sickness.

Three deaths are attributed to Influenza as against eight last year. Pneumonia claimed seven victims. There were four from this cause in 1922.

Tubercle has again been more fatal since 26 persons have died as the result of it against 23 last year and only 13 the year before. The figures given in the table above under Tuberculosis show once again the serious mortality this disease causes amongst those of early adult age. No less than 21 out of the total of 26 deaths from Tubercle occur between the ages of 15 and 45. Thus over 80% of the total deaths from this cause occur during the most active years of life.

SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF THE NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL

There are two district nurses, they are doing very valuable work. Both are supported privately.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No provision is made.

MIDWIVES.

The Local Authority through its Maternity and Child welfare committee provides the salary for one midwife. There are eight names on the list of Midwives practising in the district. Several of these are really more employed as Monthly nurses rather than as Midwives.

Since the last report the Council has obtained the list of these nurses from the County Council. This list is supplied to the M.O H. and distributed to every doctor in the town.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is under one roof a Maternity and child welfare centre and a School clinic. Mrs. Inder the School dentist attends there also, and looks after both the children and the mothers attending the clinics. Gas is administered when necessary by the School medical officer or the M.O.H. according to circumstances.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is run at 9 Castle Street.

A Clinic for the treatment for Venereal Diseases is run at 9 Castle Street. The times for attendance are at the following hours :

MEN. Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Friday at 8 p.m.

WOMEN. Friday at 4 p.m.

Arrangements are made for persons who have to get away by train so that as a rule the Clinic hours start earlier than stated. In the event of any rearrangement of times at this centre, it would be advantageous to start the Friday evening session half an hour earlier.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE C.C.

- (1). TUBERCULOSIS. Hawley maintained by the County Council.
- (2). MATERNITY. No provision is made. Cases requiring operation are admitted to the North Devon Infirmary.
- (3). CHILDREN. One ward is kept for Children at the last named Hospital.
- (4). FEVER. An Isolation Hospital is available for Infections cases. Owing to the method adopted by the Council of having to hold a meeting of the Hospital Committee before admitting each case of infectious disease, there is often avoidable delay in opening the Hospital and admitting the patient. Cases should be admitted on the responsibility of the M.O.H. and the Chairman of that Committee.
- (5). SMALL POX. All arrangements for the Housing of cases of this disease are now in the hands of the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) Infectious cases are removed by means of a horse vehicle provided by the Local Authority.

- (b) Accidents and other cases. A motor ambulance is maintained by the North Devon Infirmary which is available on payment for the general population. The County M.O.H. has recently announced that a quite luxurious motor ambulance is now available for the public on payment. All applications for its use should be addressed to him.

LABORATORY WORK.

The County undertake to do all examinations for Infections cases. No charge is made when the circumstances of the patient are such as to render any fee a hardship. In other cases the doctor is charged by the County and he has to recover from the patient if he can.

Anti-diphtheritic serum is supplied free of charge to all practitioners in the town by the Local Authority.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS.

LOCAL ACTS.

Barnstaple Market Act, 1852. Provisional Order, 1907, partially amending and altering above.

ADOPTIVE ACTS

Public Amendments Act, 1890, parts 2, 3, 4, and 5. The whole of the Public Health Amendments Act, 1907, except Sections 48, 51, 68, 78, 82, 85, 91, 92, 93, and 94.

During the year new Bye-Laws have been adopted dealing with Slaughter Houses. It is hoped that these will improve the methods at present in use.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The attention of the Council is directed to the following Report of the Sanitary Inspector particularly to the part dealing with Housing and overcrowding. It will be seen that he raises once more the question of tenement dwellings. When this was discussed before, it was at a time of optimism, when it was hoped that many houses would shortly be built. At the rate of progress which we have any right to expect now and for many years to come, it will be a very long while before the benefits of any new housing will filter down to those who most need the improvement in their accommodation. No suggested solution of this difficulty should be turned down without careful consideration, and it is hoped that the Council during the present year will go into the question once more.

21, CASTLE STREET,

BARNSTAPLE,

24th March, 1924.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Barnstaple.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you, as the Urban Sanitary Authority for the district, my third Annual Report of the work carried out in the Borough during the year 1923.

Only 74 complaints were received as to nuisances compared with 129 the previous year, all of which were dealt with satisfactorily. There were 174 premises where nuisances were abated either by verbal instructions or written notices. In most instances I find that an ordinary letter to owners or occupiers has the desired effect. In two cases only was it found necessary to serve legal notices.

12 New sets of house drains were laid, whilst at 30 houses the drains were exposed and repaired. Altogether 214 tests were applied.

23 houses were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1909-1919, and 56 under the Housing Regulations, 1910. 1 Closing Order was made in respect of a dwelling which was in a dilapidated and dangerous condition. The owner acted upon the order and eventually the premises were demolished. One other house was demolished following a demolition order of last year. 10 of the houses in Green Lane have been pulled down.

7 old houses have been renovated.

The shortage of houses is still very acute in the Borough especially those suitable for the poorer classes. The building of houses for owner occupiers is not going to relieve the congestion to any great extent as the majority of overcrowding cases exist in the class of cottage which is let at from 4 to 6 shillings per week. It seems impossible to build houses here to be let at such an economic rent, and those houses which will be vacated by those who are ambitious enough to build for themselves will either be sold or let at a rental far above the means of those whose surroundings are very unsatisfactory.

A block of tenement dwellings is to my mind the solution to this problem.

These are a few of the overcrowding cases which have come to my notice :—

Man and wife	6 children	ages 11 yrs.—6 months	2 bedrooms.
Man and wife	2 children	„ 2½ „ —12 „	
Man and wife	4 children	males 22 yrs. and 4 yrs. females 15 yrs. „ 11 yrs.	2 bedrooms
Man and wife	4 children	females 15, 4 and 2 yrs. male 19 yrs	2 bedrooms.
Man and wife	4 children	female 15 yrs. males 13, 11, 5 yrs.	2 bedrooms.

(Tubercular cases).

Man and wife	2 children	males, ages 11, 13.	3 bedrooms.
Man and wife	6 children	all under 8 yrs.	

Woman and 3 children use one room for living and sleeping.

One application was received to inspect premises under the Rent Restrictions Act, and after careful consideration I granted a certificate that the house was not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. The owner being informed carried out the necessary repairs.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

468 visits of inspection were made to slaughter-houses and 518 to premises where meat is exposed for sale. Again I have to report there were no seizures, as in every case meat has been voluntarily surrendered to me whenever I have found any carcasses or portion which requires condemnation. I very much appreciate the co-operation of the butchers and those in charge of the slaughter-houses who advise me at all times when anything abnormal is discovered. More supervision however is necessary with regard to carcasses which are brought into the town after having been slaughtered elsewhere.

New slaughter-house bye-laws have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health and will come into operation shortly.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

29	Carcases of Beef.
14	„ „ Mutton.
4	„ „ Veal.
7	„ „ Pork.
4	Fore Quarters of Beef.

1 Hind Quarter of Beef.
 4 Cows Heads.
 52 Pigs Heads.
 37 lbs Chilled Beef.
 30 lbs. Mutton.
 43 lbs. Pork.
 186 lbs. Fish.
 1227 lbs. Offal, etc.

Nature of disease or condition.

Beef Tuberculosis. Black Quarter. Actinomycosis, Inflammation,
 Dropsy, Emaciation and Bone Taint.
 Mutton. Emaciation. Inflammation and Dropsy.
 Veal. Tuberculosis, Pneumonia and Inflammation.
 Pork. Tuberculosis, Inflammation, Pleurisy and Jaundice.
 Fish. Decomposition.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

38 samples for analysis were taken during the year, viz. :—

New Milk.	15	Formal.	4	in course of delivery.
Scald Milk.	8	„	1	„ „
Sweets.			1	Informal.
Butter.	8	„	9	„

The milk proved to be very good in most cases. One sample contained as much as 4·15% fat. The average shows 3·6% fat and 8·83% of non fatty solids.

The scald milk was found to contain 5% added water. No action being taken in this case owing to certain circumstances.

One sample of butter was found to contain 21·5% of water. Legal proceedings were taken in this case, and a fine of £1 and costs was imposed.

All the other samples of butter proved to be genuine.

63 visits were paid to Grocers' premises, and everywhere I found that the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, were being complied with.

With regard to the Ministry's circular re preservatives, I only found one bakehouse where liquid whole egg was used in making sponge cakes. The practice in this case was at once discontinued.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

22 cases of Infectious Diseases were investigated, and every effort made to prevent the spread of the disease. 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, 13 cases of Diphtheria, and 2 of Enteric were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

81 rooms were fumigated, as follows :—

Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis.	Enteric.	Cancer.	By request.
13	11	43	2	5	7

2 schools were sprayed with formaldehyde.

10 hospital wards were disinfected.

100 lots of bedding and clothing were steam disinfected.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 45 Registered retailers of Milk, and 10 wholesale traders and producers within the Borough, and 7 retailers whose premises are situated outside the district.

There are 25 Dairies, and 18 Shops where Milk is sold, also 27 Cowsheds. These have been visited from time to time, and I have found the usual limewashing carried out. Special attention, however, has been paid to Cowsheds during the process of milking, and in several instances I found that the methods employed were not satisfactory. I informed the occupier in each case, and I am pleased to state improvements have been made.

One new dairy was built and three cowsheds were re-paved. Further improvements are being carried out with regard to other cowsheds. No applications have been received for licences of sell "Certified Grade A" or Pasteured Milk.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Visits have been paid to the various workshops including the 12 Bakehouses, and where necessary verbal instructions have been given. In two cases the water closets opened directly into the workplace whereas the Factory and Workshops Act demands an intervening ventilated space. This has been provided.

Offensive trade premises have been visited at irregular intervals all of which have been found in order.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The one Common Lodging House has been visited periodically, and always found in a clean state.

RAILWAY STATIONS.

The sanitary arrangements at the three railway stations have been inspected occasionally, and with one exception were found to be in good working order.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

There are 31 premises licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, and the quantity stored exceeds 98,000 gallons.

Apart from the three Motor Spirit Companies there are situated in the Borough 15 bulk storage tanks and pumps.

10 premises are licensed to store Carbide of Calcium the total quantity being 1,764 lbs.

10 premises are licensed for the storage of mixed explosives.

All these premises are visited and the licences renewed annually.

DETAILS OF SANITARY OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC
HEALTH ACTS AND HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

	Public Health Acts.	Housing and Town Planning Acts.	Totals.
New sets of house drains laid	10	2	12
Drains repaired	28	2	30
Drains cleared	50	...	50
Interceptors fixed	11	1	12
Inspection Chambers built	29	2	31
Fresh air inlets provided	13	1	14
New soil pipes fixed	6	...	6
„ ventilating shafts	11	1	12
„ gullies fixed	53	4	57
Rain pipes disconnected from drain	7	...	7
Waste preventing cisterns renewed	9	...	9
„ „ „ repaired	4	1	5

New water closets provided	...	...	21	...	21
New W C. pans fixed	...	...	30	4	34
Water closets repaired	...	...	3	1	4
„ „ cleansed	...	...	2	3	5
Scullery troughs provided	...	...	5	1	6
New scullery waste pipes fixed	...	...	1	1	2
Rooms cleansed	...	...	24	19	43
Larders limewashed	...	...	3	...	3
Rooms repaired	...	...	8	2	10
Larders provided	...	...	11	2	13
Yards cemented	...	...	16	8	24
Coppers repaired	...	...	4	1	5
Guttering repaired	...	...	2	1	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	6	5	11
Floors repaired and ventilated	...	...	7	1	8
Dampness remedied	...	...	5	2	7
Windows made to open	...	...	7	8	15
Nuisance from pigs abated	...	...	3	...	3
Overcrowding abated	...	...	3	...	3
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	4	...	4
New Urinal to P.H. provided	...	...	1	...	1
Wash-house cemented	...	...	...	1	1
Premises replastered	...	...	...	1	1
Rooms provided with better light and ventilation	...	...	...	1	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	8	1	9

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	2038
Primary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	468
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	518
„ „ Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	...	479
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	36
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Common lodging house	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	26
„ „ Knackers yard...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Offensive trade premises	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Grocers shops...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ „ Railway stations	...	...	...	...	...	3

No. of tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	...	214
Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	172
Intimation notices	...	...	...	...	...	19
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verbal notices	...	...	...	...	...	72

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

No additions have been made to the staff during the year; the personnel remains as before, and consists of

The M O.H. and the School Medical Officer, both part time officials.

The Sanitary Inspector is Mr. A. E. Tucker, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. He is also Inspector of Meat and Foods. Petroleum Inspector and Inspector under the Explosives Act. He has as assistant one unqualified man. Miss Quare is Health Visitor. These three are all whole time officers.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	7
(b) With state assistance	...	...	...	...	0

I. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection. (1). Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	79
(2) Number of houses which were inspected and recorded under the housing (Inspection of district) Regulation 1910	...	...	...	...	56
(3). Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1
(4). Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the last heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	7

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.
 Number rendered fit in consequence of informal action
 by the Local Authority or their officers 7

3 ACTION UNDER THE SANITARY POWERS.

A.—*Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.*

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
 notices were served requiring repairs 23
- (2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit by
 owners 23
 By Local Authority in default of owners 0
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
 Closing Orders became operative in pursuance
 of declarations made by owners of intention to
 close 0

B.—*Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.*

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
 notices were served requiring defects to be
 remedied 90
- (2) Number in which defects were remedied by
 owners 70

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.*

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to
 the making of Closing Orders 3
- (2) Number of houses in respect of which Closing
 Orders were made 1
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
 Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling
 houses having been made fit 0
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
 Demolition Orders were made 2
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in
 pursuance of demolition orders 2

HERBERT C. JONAS, M.D., B.S., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (CIVILIANS ONLY) DURING
THE YEAR 1923.

						Males.	Females.
	ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	89	107
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	2
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1
7	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	2
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	...
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	10	9
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	5	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	10	12
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	6	6
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	18
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	6	6
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	5
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	4	3
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	4
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, prema- ture birth	...	...	...	...	3	4
29	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	3	3
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	21	21
32	Causes ill defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Deaths of Infants { Total	...	...	...	...	9	6
	under 1 year { Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	...
	TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	142	120
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	130	114
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	12	6
	POPULATION	...	...	...	...		14,550

SCHOOLS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report on the work of School Medical Inspection for the year 1923 :—January 1st to December 31st.

1.—STAFF.

No change.

2.—CO-ORDINATION.

(a) This is very good.

(b) No Nursing Schools

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

3.—SCHOOL HYGIENE.

There is nothing fresh to report on this head.

4.—MEDICAL INSPECTION

(a) The usual age groups have been examined :

Entrants, æt 5.	} See Table I.
Intermediate, æt. 8.	
Leavers, æt 12.	

(b) All the work has been done on School premises between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The parents are more and more coming to welcome these inspections.

(c) *Crippling Defects*.—The same arrangements as last year.

(d) Practically no disturbance of School arrangements occur.

5.—FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

(a) *Uncleanliness*.—There were no cases of uncleanliness referred by the S.M.O. on routine inspections.

The School nurse on her visits has found 191 children unclean, the actual number of individual children being 99. The majority of the worst of the school children can always be traced to the same families.

The uncleanness shows a slow but steady drop from year to year and anyone who can look back over 10-12 years cannot but be struck with the general improvement in the cleanliness of the children. In my opinion, however, the most important thing in the keeping up of this cleanliness is a strict discipline on the part of the Head and other teachers in a School. The visits of the doctor and nurse are at lengthy intervals, but the teacher has to be faced every morning, and it is in those Schools in which the teacher is most insistent on the children coming to School clean that we find least trouble. The *Strict teacher* backed up in all her attacks on uncleanness by the School nurse and doctor is the surest incentive to cleanliness amongst the children. The actual number of children examined by the School nurse was 2199, so that the actual percentage of unclean children is just under 5%. No cleansing has as yet been carried out by the Authority as after a few days exclusion the children generally returned much better.

(b) *Minor Ailments*.—There have been 286 cases of Minor Ailments dealt with at the School Clinic.

(c) *Tonsils and Adenoids*.—There have been 32 cases of Tonsils and Adenoids referred and I have traced 10 operations and 5 other forms of treatment. I am still impressed with 2 facts :

1. That enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids are getting rarer.
2. That they get better much more often than we have recognised without operation.

It is only in cases where obvious danger to the child's physique and health exist that I really keep on urging the parent to have operative treatment.

(d) *Tuberculosis*.—The Tuberculosis Medical Officer continues to give me his valuable advice and assistance on all occasions when it is sought, in connection with Tubercular children and also "suspects" and "contacts."

Ten children have on his advice been sent to Torrington open air School, and three definite Tubercular cases have been sent to Heather Tor Convalescent Home for children.

The children who go to Torrington return in nearly every case wonderfully improved in health and general physique but so often slip back after a month or two in their home surroundings again.

- (e) *Skin Disease*.—There have been 8 cases of Ringworm of the Head, and seven of these have been treated by X Ray at Exeter, with complete success; the average absence from School being about one month from the time of the parents' consent to the treatment. One had hoped that Ringworm had been almost stamped out but try how one may a small number of fresh cases continually crop up and it is at present a mystery as to where these cases receive their infection. Owing to the vigilance of the School nurse they are caught early and a serious epidemic is prevented.

There have been four cases of *Scabies*, none of serious extent.

- (f) *Eye Disease*.—There has been little Eye Disease apart from Defective Vision.
- (g) *Vision*.—There were 55 children referred to the School Eye Specialist for refraction; some of these were re-examinations.
- (h) *Ear Disease*.—There were 16 cases of Ear Disease referred during the year.

The treatment of "running ears" is one which is at present being especially dealt with by the Medical Officer of the Board of Education in his reports. I am carefully watching the effects of the new treatment advocated for this complaint before advising you on taking any further steps. At present, treatment is prolonged and needs such continual attendance and patience on the part of the patient that often they cease attending before a cure is effected, only to reappear for future treatment as the discharge becomes worse.

- (i) *Dental Defects*.—See dentist's report in page 22.
- (j) *Crippling Defects*.—Four new cases of deformity have come to my notice during 1923, and have been suitably dealt with. One exceedingly bad case of *Spastic Paraplegia* has been up to the Hospital at Exeter, and is now receiving massage, etc., at North Devon Infirmary, and is generally being trained to walk.

One Infantile Paralysis has been fitted with a boot with great success.

All the cripples are known to me, kept under observation, and their parents advised whenever treatment is necessary.

- (k) *Infectious Disease*.—No change in arrangements. Nearly every child in the Infant Schools has had Measles during 'Xmas holidays. The Epidemic started at the end of the year, and its greatest effects will be seen during 1924, otherwise 1923 was a healthy year, especially the wet mild Autumn. I should like to express my gratitude here to the Attendance Officer who by his early co-operation, quick visiting and tact in persuading parents whose children have doubtful illness, to bring them to the Clinic has on several occasions been instrumental in bringing to light early cases of infectious disease which would otherwise have been overlooked.

7.—FOLLOWING UP.

The School Nurse is still most persevering in keeping in touch with children needing treatment, and undoubtedly the children who really need treatment get medical advice. I am grateful to my Medical Colleagues in the town for their most kindly co-operation and assistance on all occasions, which is most essential to the efficient carrying out of the treatment of children referred at Medical Inspection. I attribute to this fact a large proportion of success attending this most important part of Medical Inspection.

8.—MEDICAL TREATMENT.

As in 1922. 64 Recommends have been provided for children to enable them to get treatment at the North Devon Dispensary. They have been as follows :—

Malnutrition	15	Tonsils and Adenoids ...	4
Susp. T.B.	7	Kidney Disease	4
Anæmia and Heart ...	6	Rheumatism	1
Goitre	1	Eye Disease	3
Prolonged Coughs ...	6	Petit Mal	7
Miscellaneous	10.		

This does not mean 64 children as some have had several recommends.

6.—SCHOOL DENTIST'S REPORT.

To the School Medical Officer.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith submit my Report of work done at the Dental Clinic during the year 1923.

Owing to the illness of the School Dentist during November and December all the Schools were not inspected and there were fewer treatment sessions held than in previous years.

However, the year has seen a satisfactory increase in the number of children attending the Clinic—an average of over 15 per session as against 13 last year; and a decrease in those refusing treatment—now only 2·7% against 4%.

The work has gone with a swing and the children are very brave and seem actually to like to attend on dental afternoons.

“Gas” sessions have been much appreciated and are well attended.

On re-examination it was found that the children's mouths were cleaner altogether. When the Clinic was started in 1920 a larger proportion of the mouths examined were in a foul and septic state; now it is fortunately quite a rare occurrence to see such a condition at least in the “routine” ages—and then only among those whose parents refuse treatment, and although there are usually defects they are not serious and can easily be remedied.

Once again the School Dentist tenders her sincere thanks to the School Doctor, School Nurse, and Teachers for their help during the past year.

Yours faithfully,

MABEL F. INDER,

School Dentist.

There were 34 anæsthetics given, all the cases being dealt with by Nitrous Oxide Gas.

There were no difficulties, and all were successful.

The School Dentist was unfortunately ill during November and December, which limited the work during the latter part of the year, but she has now quite recovered and is rapidly making up for lost time.

The most favourable report is that relating to the general condition of the children's mouths as compared with 1920 : and also the gradual dwindling of refusals.

10.—OPEN AIR EDUCATION.

As noted above, 10 children were sent by the T.M.O. to the Open Air School at Torrington. I find a natural prejudice amongst parents against "parting" with their children but this I think will gradually be overcome.

11.—PROVISION OF MEALS.

No meals have been provided by the Authority.

12.—SCHOOL BATHS.

Do not exist.

13.—CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

No alteration.

14.—CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

As usual, the teachers cannot do enough to further the efforts of the School Medical Service. The School Medical Officer cannot sufficiently thank them for their unfailing courtesy and assistance.

15.—CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER.

This Officer continues to assist the School Medical Officer in every way. There is the closest co-operation between the School Medical Service and this Officer, and he has rendered invaluable assistance throughout the year.

16.—CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

This continues to be as close as ever. Again the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. has worked in close co-operation with me, and has done much valuable work in assisting the School Medical Service.

Under this heading I should like to touch on a side of work in connection with School children which has not been thoroughly developed in the town.

At present, there is the Maternity Centre which largely manned by Voluntary Workers watches over the welfare of the newly born child until of School age, and there is a Committee who deals with them on leaving School, but during their whole period at School, they have no organised Voluntary body to care for them. The School Medical Service and the Education Committee do their part, and I cannot but feel that there is room for a *Children's Care Committee* in the Town run on a Voluntary basis to fill this gap. It could easily be started by forming small groups in connection with individual Schools, which would gradually link up into a Central Care Committee. There is much valuable work waiting for a Committee of this kind to do, and they could be assured of the closest co-operation between them and the School Medical Service.

17.—BLIND, DEAF AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

Blind.—No fresh cases. The boy who was sent to the West of England Institution for the Blind is doing well. His sight has improved, the boy is very happy and is getting on excellently.

Deaf.—No fresh cases.

Epileptic.—There is one Epileptic attending School, a very slight case and has no fits in School.

One more severe is at home.

There are several cases of Minor Epilepsy under my observation, who are receiving treatment.

17b.—DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

There are no cases of severe Heart Disease at present known to me who are not attending School though naturally their attendance is not good. I find these children are happier attending School when they can, and do not think it has a bad effect on the course of the disease. It has to be left to the discretion of their mother aided by the advice of the Doctor, and School Attendance Authorities quite realize in these cases that the attendance must be intermittent.

Mentally Defective Children.

1st Group. Children actually notified to Authority.

There have been 8 Imbeciles notified during the year. 4 boys and 4 girls

2nd Group. The class for dull and backward children has been continued at Grosvenor Street, and continues to do good work. The class for Manual work is very successful, the children being taught basket making, mat making, chair mending and other work.

18.—NURSERY SCHOOLS. There are none.

19.—SECONDARY SCHOOLS. Under Devon County Authorities.

20.—EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

As in 1920.

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. R. GIBBS.

TABLE I.

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections.

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Intermediates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Leavers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Total			...	...	...	...	...	525

Number of other Routine Inspections 33

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	215
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	294
Total			...	...	509

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION
IN THE YEAR 1923.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	4	2	4	...
Uncleanliness : (See Table IV., Group V.)	...	...	...	...
<i>Skin.</i> Ringworm :				
Scalp	2	...	6	..
Body .. ..	...	...	3	...
Scabies ... ..	..	...	4	...
Impetigo ... ..	...	...	19	...
Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	3	...	22	...
<i>Eye.</i>				
Blepharitis	2	...	4	...
Conjunctivitis ... ..	...	...	1	...
Keratitis ... ..	...	...	...	..
Corneal Opacities ... ..	...	...	1	...
Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	26	1	5	...
Squint	3	...	...	...
Other Conditions	2	...	3	...
<i>Ear.</i>				
Defective Hearing	1	...	1	...
Otitis Media	1	...	8	...
Other Ear Diseases	1	...	4	...
<i>Nose and Throat.</i>				
Enlarged Tonsils only	17	9	6	...
Adenoids only	1	5	2	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	4	2	...	...
Other Conditions	2	1	10	...
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)	1	...	9	...
Defective Speech ... ..	...	1	...	...
Teeth—Dental Diseases (See Table IV., Group IV.)	5	1	...	...

TABLE II. (*continued*).

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Heart and Circulation.</i>				
Heart Disease :				
Organic	5	1	...	6
Functional	2	10	...	...
Anæmia	3	2	2	...
<i>Lungs.</i>				
Bronchitis	5	4	14	...
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases...	...	..	1	...
<i>Tuberculosis.</i>				
Pulmonary :				
Definite ... ..	...	..	2	...
Suspected ... ..	...	3	9	...
Non-Pulmonary :	...	...	...	...
Glands ... ..	...	...	...	...
Spine ... ..	...	...	...	...
Hip ... ..	...	...	1	...
Other Bones and Joints ...	...	1	..	...
Skin ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Forms ... ..	...	...	..	...
<i>Nervous System.</i>				
Epilepsy	1	...	...	...
Chorea ... ..	...	..	2	...
Other Conditions ... ..	...	...	1	...
<i>Deformities.</i>				
Rickets ... ..	...	...	...	...
Spinal Curvature	1	...	2	...
Other Forms	2	...	1	...
Other Defects and Diseases ...	5	1	24	...

TABLE II. (*continued.*)

B.--NUMBER OF *individual children* FOUND AT *Routine* MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES.)

GROUP.	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require Treatment
	Inspected.	Found to require Treatment.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
CODE GROUPS :—			
Entrants	157	40	26
Intermediates	164	42	25
Leavers	204	48	23
Total (Code Groups)	523	130	24·7
Other Routine Inspections ..	33	19	58

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

			Boys.	Girls	Total.
BLIND (including partially blind)	(i.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		At other Institutions ... ..	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution ..	...	...	..
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	1	...	1
		At no School or Institution ..	...	...	...
DEAF (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf).	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or dumb and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	1	...	1
		At no School or Institution ..	...	...	...
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		At other Institutions ... ..	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution ...	...	...	...

TABLE III. (continued).

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority.)	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	41	25	66
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	..	..	..
	Notified to the Local Control Authority <i>during the year.</i>	Feeble-minded	...	...	...
		Imbeciles	4	4	8
		Idiots	...	...	...
EPILEPTICS.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools	..	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	..	...
	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		At no School or Institution	1	1	2
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	3	2	5
		At no School or Institution	2	1	3
	Non-infections but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	...	...	...
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools	...	...	...
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	..	1	1
	Delicate children (<i>e.g.</i> , pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open Air Schools	5	5	10
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	...	..
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculous.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	1	2	3
		At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	1	...	1
	Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), <i>e.g.</i> children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools	...	...	...
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools	...	...	...
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	...	14	14
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	2	2

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER, 1923.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness for
which see Group V.

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)
<i>Skin.</i>			
Ringworm Scalp... ..	6	...	6
Ringworm-Body... ..	4	...	4
Scabies	7	...	7
Impetigo	67	...	67
Other Skin Disease	14	...	14
<i>Minor Eye Defects</i> (External and other, but exclud- ing cases falling in Group II.	13	...	13
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	15	..	15
<i>Miscellaneous</i> (e g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	160	...	160
Total	286	...	286

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.
(excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or Disease. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)
Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint	55	...	...	55
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	55	...	...	55

TABLE IV (*continued*).

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed.

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 51 (b) Otherwise ...

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles.

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 7 wholly provided 24 part.

(b) Otherwise ...

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Total.		
5	5	10	5	15

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(I) Number of Children who were

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

Aged :

Routine Age Groups	...	}	5 .. 37	}	Total ...	531
			6 .. 60			
			7.. 128			
			8 . 114			
			9... 94			
			10... 98			
			11... ..			
			12... ..			
			13... ..			
			14... ..			

Specials 314

Grand Total 845

(b) Found to require treatment 747

(c) Actually treated 710

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination 197

TABLE IV. (continued).

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(2)	Half-days devoted to :								
	Inspection	...	...	...	...	12	} Total	...	68
	Treatment	...	...	...	...	56			
(3)	Attendance made by children for treatment :								
(4)	Fillings :								
	Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	236	} Total	...	259
	Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	23			
(5)	Extractions :								
	Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	125	} Total	...	712
	Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	587			
(6)	Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions							...	34
(7)	Other operations :								
	Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	33	} Total	...	55
	Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	22			

GROUP V.-UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurse	104
(ii.)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurse	2199
(iii.)	Number of individual children found unclean	99
(iv.)	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	nil
(5)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :	
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	nil
	(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	nil



